

08/799274



02/13/97



02/13/97

RE: Application of : ECKHARDT, C.
 For : APPLIANCE WITH INDICATING DEVICE

February 13, 1997

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Please accept for filing as a new U.S. patent application the following documents which are submitted herewith:

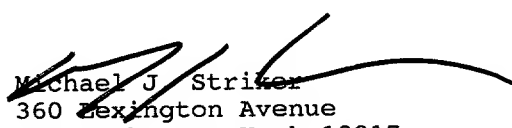
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|------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| 1. <u> X </u> | Exp. Mail Cert. | 8. <u> X </u> | Priority Request |
| 2. <u> X </u> | Specification and Claims | 9. <u> X </u> | Certified Copies |
| 3. <u> X </u> | Executed Declaration | 10. <u> </u> | Information Disclosure Statement & PTO 1449 |
| 4. <u> X </u> | Assignment & Recordation Form | 11. <u> </u> | Foreign Search Report with translation |
| 5. <u> </u> | Small Entity Statement | 12. <u> </u> | Simultaneous Amendment |
| 6. <u> 4 </u> | Sheet(s) of Drawings | 13. <u> X </u> | Filing Fee |
| 7. <u> </u> | Letter re filing without signature + copy of unsigned Declaration | 14. <u> </u> | Other: <u> </u> |

Express Mail Number: EH280265101USDate of Deposit: February 13, 1997

Authorization is given to debit the account of the undersigned 19-4675 with respect to any missing or insufficient fee.

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Respectfully submitted,


 Michael J. Striker
 360 Lexington Avenue
 New York, New York 10017
 (212) 687 5068
 Registration No. 27233

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

RE: Application of : ECKHARDT, C.

70976 U.S. PTO



02/13/97

Filed : Simultaneously

For : APPLIANCE WITH INDICATING DEVICE



February 13, 1997

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Attached hereto are the filing fee and the following documents re the above application:

1. X Original Application
2. X Certified Copy
3. 4 Sheets of Drawings
4. X Assignment

Breakdown of filing fee:

Basic Fee for the above application.....\$770.00

Total Number of Claims

14 minus 20 times \$22.00.....\$ 0.00

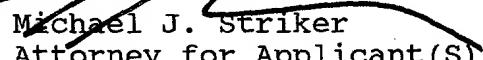
Independent Claims

1 minus 3 times \$80.00.....\$ 0.00

TOTAL FILING FEE.....\$770.00

Should no filing fee be submitted or the filing fee submitted herewith be insufficient, then it is respectfully requested that such fee be charged to the account of the undersigned (19-4675).

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant(S)
Reg No. 27233

08/799274-021397

61851 U.S. PTO

08/799274



02/13/97

08/799274

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, CLAUS-CHR. ECKHARDT, a citizen of
Germany, whose post office address is, respectfully, Sallstr. 41, 30171 Hannover,
Germany, have invented certain new and useful improvements in:

APPLIANCE WITH INDICATING DEVICE

of which the following is a complete specification:



BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to an appliance with an indicating device.

Appliances of the above mentioned general type are known in the art. In particular, an appliance is known which is formed as a cordless telephone with an outer surface provided with a throughgoing passage for receiving an indicating device. An edge region which surrounds the throughgoing opening of the appliance is depressed relative to the outer surface of the appliance. The edge region operates as a supporting surface for a transparent disk for covering an indicating device which is formed for example as a display.

Moreover, it is known to decorate the edge region, for example by applying a granulate or a lacquer.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an appliance with an indicating device which is further improvement of the existing appliances.

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In keeping with these objects and with others which will become apparent hereinafter, one feature of the present invention resides in an appliance, in which on the edge region, a decorative part is insertable, and is mountable on the edge region by a releasable connection.

10

When the appliance is designed in accordance with the present invention, the decorative part is provided which in a simple manner without damaging the appliance housing is mounted on the edge region or can be premounted on it. In this way the consumer must not look for an experienced person and without losing a guarantee can exchange the decorative part in accordance with its taste and replace with another decorative part, so that the outer surface of the housing can be designed individually. For example, the consumer can use a different decorative part which are sold by the manufacturer.

15

0 In accordance with another feature of the present invention, the releasable connection can be formed as an adhesive connection. Such a connection is especially stable.

5 In accordance with still a further feature of the present invention, the releasable connection can be formed as an arresting connection. In this way the decorative part can be stably connected with the edge region, and also a simple and accurately defined mounting or dismounting can be performed by means of the available arresting elements.

10 In accordance with still a further feature of the present invention, a gap is provided between the decorative part and the edge region for receiving for example a turning tool for releasing the connection. In this manner, the dismounting can be performed simply and does not need special finger strength.

15 In accordance with still a further feature of the present invention, the edge region can be depressed by two steps relative to the outer surface of the appliance, so as to include a deeper step for limiting the throughgoing passage in which a transparent disk covering the indicating device is placed, and a higher step on which the decorative part is placed. In this way, the covering of the indicating device and the decoration can be

0 applied independently from one another on the housing or removed from the housing.

The novel features which are considered as characteristic for the present invention are set forth in particular in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its construction and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be
5 best understood from the following description of specific embodiments when read in connection with the accompanying drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a view of an operating surface of a cordless telephone in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a spacial view of a display-end decorating region of the cordless telephone;

5

Figure 3 is a view showing a section through an edge region with a glued decorative part;

Figure 4 is a view showing a section of the edge region with an arresting projection and an arresting opening;

10

Figure 5 is a view showing a section through the edge region with an arresting projection of the decorative part engaging in the edge region; and

Figure 6 is a view showing a section through the edge region with the arresting projection of the edge region engaging in the decorative part.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 shows an appliance in accordance with the present invention which is formed as a cordless telephone 1. Its operating surface shown in Figure 1 is identified with reference numeral 90. An indicating device 5 is inserted in the operating surface 9 and covered by a transparent disk 75. The indicating device 5 and the transparent disk 75 are surrounded by a decorative part 25. The decorative part 25 also surrounds five keys 85 of the key field on the operating surface 90. For this purpose the decorative part 25 is provided with throughgoing openings for receiving the indicating device 5 and for receiving the keys 85. The operating surface 90 of the cordless telephone 1 also has twelve keys 80 located outside of the decorative part 25.

Figure 2 shows the outer surface 10 of the cordless telephone 1 from the side of the operating surface 90. The outer surface 10 of the appliance has a throughgoing opening 15 for receiving the indicating device 5, as well as an edge region 20 which surrounds the throughgoing opening 15 and is depressed with two stages relative to the outer surface 10 of the appliance. A deeper stage 65 of the two-stage edge region 20 which limits the throughgoing opening 15 serves for supporting a transparent disk 75 which covers the indicating device 5. A higher step 70 of the two-step edge

0 region 20 serves for supporting the decorative part 25. The higher stage 70 of the two-edge region has also five throughgoing openings 86 for receiving the keys 85 located inside the decorative part 25. For the keys 80 located outside of the decorative part 25, throughgoing openings 81 are provided correspondingly in the outer surface 10 of the appliance.

5 The decorative part 25 is inserted on the edge region 20 and mounted on the edge region 20 by a releasable connection. The releasable connection can be formed for example as an adhesive connection. As can be seen in a vertical cross-section A-A in the edge region 20 of the cordless telephone 1, in Figure 3 the mounting of the decorative part 25 on the edge region 20 is shown. The decorative part 25 is connected by a double-side adhesive band 30 with the higher stage 70 of the two-stage edge region 20. A gap 35 is formed between the decorative part 25 and the higher stage 70, toward the deeper stage 65 of the two-stage edge region 20 through the double-sided adhesive band 30.

15 The transparent disk 75 is located on the deeper stage 65. The connection between the transparent disk 75 and the deeper stage 65 is not shown, however it also can be performed by adhesive. A second gap 95 is formed between the transparent disk 75 on the one hand and the decorative part 25 and the higher stage 70 on the other hand. Together with

0 the first gap 35, the second gap 95 allows outer access for releasing of the
connection. The releasing of the adhesive connection can be performed for
example manually. The first gap 35 can also serve for receiving a turning
tool, so that when the turning tool is placed on the edge of the transparent
disk 75 a lever action can be applied to the adhesive connection without
5 high efforts and without damaging the edge region 20 so that the transparent
disk 75 can be released. Figure 3 shows the outer surfaces of the
decorative part 25 and the transparent disk 75, as well as the outer surface
10 of the appliance which are arranged in one plane. The decorative part
25 has the same width as the higher step 70. From the design reasons,
however other dimensions are recommended as well.

In Figure 3 an adhesive surface is identified with a reference
numeral 30. The decorative part 25 is provided with this adhesive surface
at its side which faces the edge region 20 and is connected with the edge
region 20 in a self-adhesive manner by this surface.

15 An arresting connection can be also used as a releasable
connection between the decorative part 25 and the edge region 20. Such
a connection is shown in Figures 4, 5 and 6. Figure 4 shows the outer
surface 10 of the appliance on a corner of the two-stage edge region 20.
The higher stage 70 has an arresting projection 50 and an arresting opening

0 55. Further arresting projections and arresting openings can be provided in
the part of the edge region 20 which is not shown in Figure 4. For illustration
of the arresting connection, Figure 5 shows a vertical cross-section B-B
through the edge region 20 at the location of the arresting opening 55, and
Figure 6 shows a vertical section C-C through the edge region 20 at the
5 location of the arresting projection 50.

In contrast to Figure 3, the decorative part 25 in Figure 5 is
connected with the higher step 70 of the two-step edge region not by an
adhesive layer. Moreover, the decorative part 25 at its side facing the edge
region 20 has an arresting projection 40 which engages in the arresting
10 opening 55 of the higher step 70 of the edge region 20, which faces the
decorative part 25. The arresting opening 55 opens between the higher step
70 and the deeper step 65 in direction toward the transparent disk 70. The
transparent disk 70 is placed on the deeper step 65 and separated from the
higher step 70 by a second gap 95. In particular, the arresting opening 55
15 opens into a first gap 35 for receiving the arresting projection of the
decorative part 25. The arresting projection 40 can be simply pressed back
through the first and second gaps 35, 95 by hand or in a simple manner by
a turning tool, so that the decorative part 25 is removable.

0 In Figure 6 the arresting projection 50 of the higher step 70 of
the two-step edge region 20, which faces the decorative part 25, engages
an arresting opening 45 of the decorative part 25 which faces the higher step
70. In contrast to Figure 3, no adhesive layer is provided between the
decorative part 25 and the higher step 70. The arresting opening 45 of the
5 decorative part 25 which faces the higher step 70 opens into the first gap 35
for receiving the arresting projection 50 of the higher step 70. The first gap
35 is oriented toward the transparent disk 75 which is placed on the deeper
stage 65 and is separated by a first gap 95 from the higher step 70. The
arresting projection 50 of the higher step 70 of the edge region 20 is pressed
10 back by hand or simply by a turning tool through the first and the second
gaps 35, 95, so that the decorative part 25 can be removed in a simple
manner.

The decorative part 25 can be formed as a synthetic plastic
part, as a wood part, or as a metal part, formed for example as a foil or as a
15 rigid part. The application of this invention is not only a cordless telephone,
but also any appliance in which an indicating device is surrounded by a
decorative part. It can be also a radio device which an image screen on the
outer surface of the appliance is surrounded by a decorative part, etc.

0 It will be understood that each of the elements described
above, or two or more together, may also find a useful application in other
types of constructions differing from the types described above.

5 While the invention has been illustrated and described as
embodied in appliance with decorative device, it is not intended to be limited
to the details shown, since various modifications and structural changes may
be made without departing in any way from the spirit of the present
invention.

10 Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the
gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge,
readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from
the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the
generic or specific aspects of this invention.

 What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters
Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

C L A I M S

1 1. An appliance, comprising an indicating device; means forming an
2 outer surface provided with a throughgoing opening for receiving said indicating
3 device; means forming an edge region which surrounds said throughgoing
4 opening and is depressed relative to said outer surface, said edge region being
5 formed so that a decorative part is insertable in said edge region; and means
6 for releasably connecting said decorative part with said edge region.

1 2. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said means for
2 releasably connecting is formed as an adhesive connection.

1 3. An appliance as defined in claim 2, wherein said adhesive
2 connection includes a double-sided adhesive band.

1 4. An appliance as defined in claim 2, wherein said decorative
2 part has a side facing toward said edge region and is provided at said side
3 with an adhesive surface which is self-adhesively connected with said edge
4 region, so as to form said releasable connection.

1 5. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said decorative
2 part has a further throughgoing opening for receiving said indicating device.

1 6. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said decorative
2 part has a plurality of additional throughgoing openings for receiving keys.

1 7. An appliance as defined in claim 5, wherein said decorative
2 part has a plurality of additional throughgoing openings for receiving keys.

1 8. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said releasable
2 connection includes an arresting connection.

1 9. An appliance as defined in claim 8, wherein said arresting
2 connection includes an arresting projection provided on said decorative part
3 and an arresting opening provided on said edge region in which said
4 arresting projection is engageable.

1 10. An appliance as defined in claim 8, wherein said arresting
2 connection includes an arresting projection formed in said edge region, and
3 an arresting opening provided in said decorative part in which said arresting
4 projection is arrestable.

1 11. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said
2 decorative part and said edge region are arranged so that a gap is provided

1 between said decorative part and said edge region for receiving a tool in
2 order to release said connection.

1 12. An appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein said edge
2 region is depressed in a two-step manner relative to said outer surface.

1 13. An appliance as defined in claim 12, wherein said edge
2 region has a deeper step which limits said throughgoing opening; and further
3 comprising a transparent disk which covers said indicating device and is
4 placed on said deeper step.

1 14. An appliance as defined in claim 12, wherein said edge
2 region has a higher step on which said decorative part is placed.

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER
OF ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Claus-Chr. ECKHARDT

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention.

APPLIANCE WITH INDICATING DEVICE

the specification of which:

(Check one) ☒ is attached hereto.

___ was filed on _____ as

Application Serial No. _____ and

was amended on _____
(if applicable)

was amended through _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section § 119, of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):

Priority Claimed

<u>2 96 02 545.3</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>	<u>February 14, 1996</u>	<u>X</u>	___
Priority Number	Country	Date filed (Priority Date)	Yes	No
___	___	___	___	___
Priority Number	Country	Date filed (Priority Date)	Yes	No
___	___	___	___	___
Priority Number	Country	Date filed (Priority Date)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 35, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a), which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status - Patented, pending, abandoned)
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_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status - Patented, pending, abandoned)
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_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status - Patented, pending, abandoned)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that those statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

The undersigned hereby authorizes **Michael J. Striker** and the firm of **Striker, Striker & Stenby**, to accept and follow instructions from:

ROBERT BOSCH GMBH

as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between Michael J. Striker, the firm of Striker, Striker & Stenby, and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, Michael J. Striker and the firm of Striker, Striker & Stenby will be so notified by the undersigned.

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Michael J. Striker, Registration No. 27233

Address all telephone calls to: Michael J. Striker

Telephone number: (212) 687 - 5068

Address all correspondence to: Striker, Striker & Stenby
360 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10017
U.S.A.

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR
FIRST INVENTOR:

1-00
Claus-Chr. ECKHARDT

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE:



DATE:

13.01.97

RESIDENCE:

Sallstr. 41
30171 Hannover
GERMANY

DEX

CITIZENSHIP:

German

2025-11-26/30

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION	CLASS	
	SUBCLASS	
BY	DRAFTSMAN	

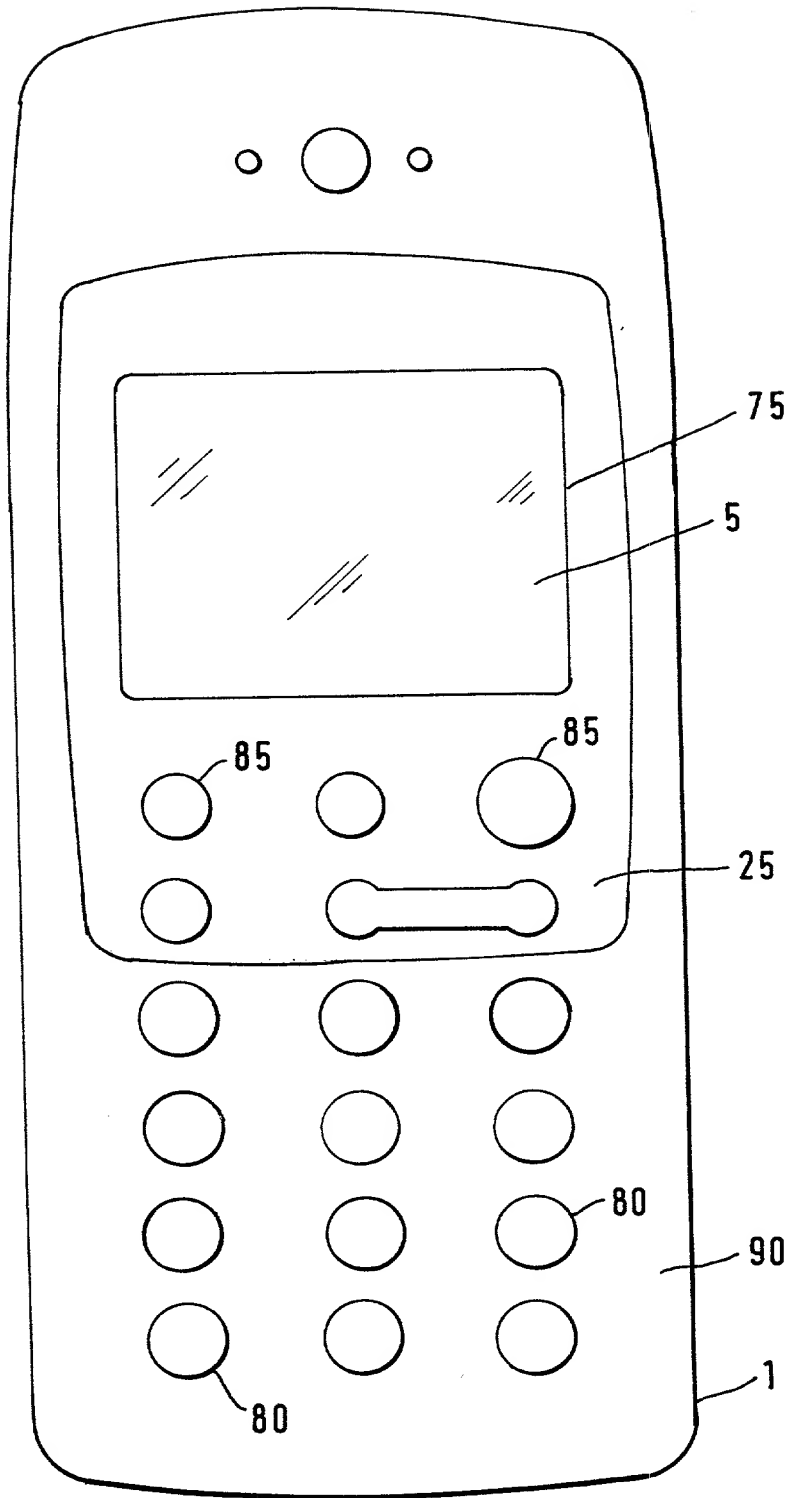


FIG. 1



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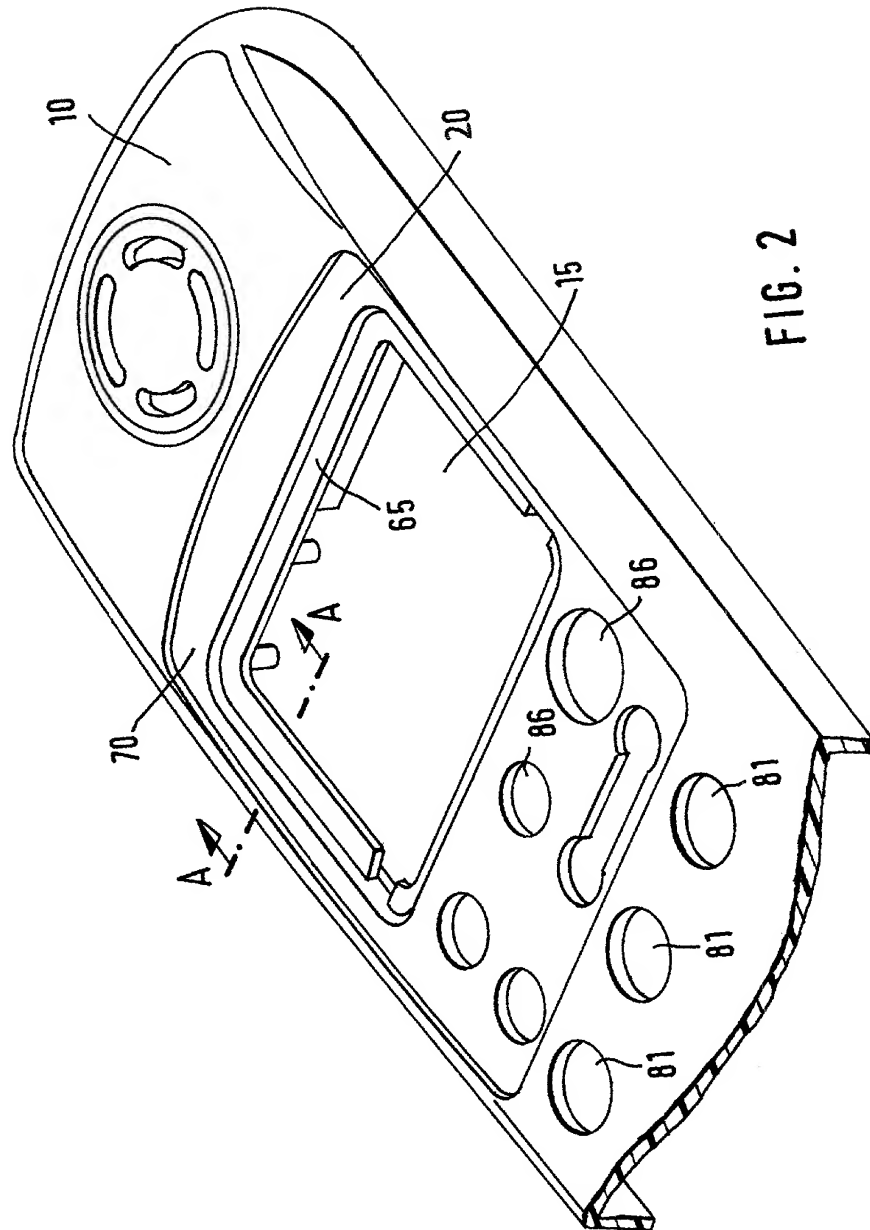


FIG. 2

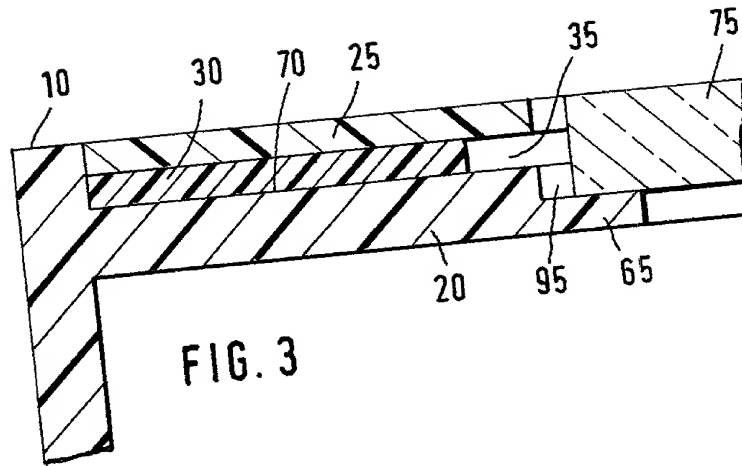


FIG. 3

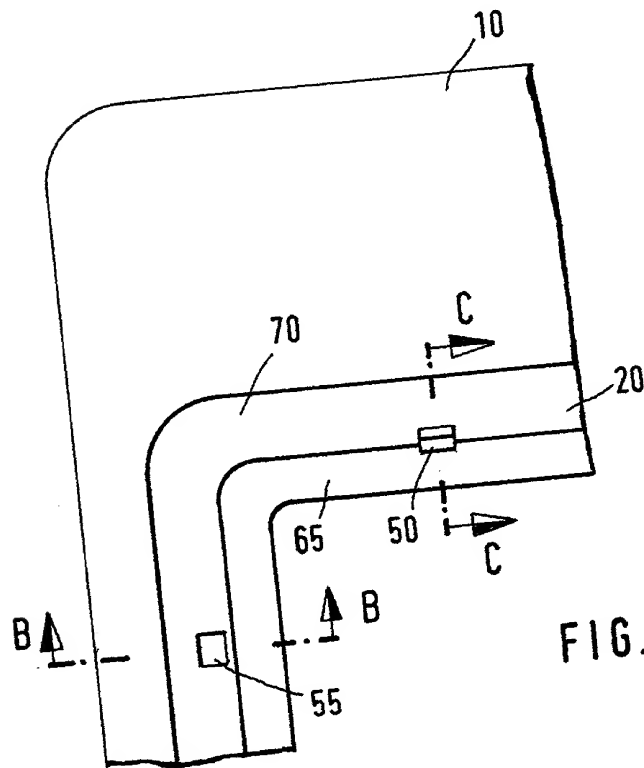


FIG. 4

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APPROVED	FIG.
	CLASS SUBCLASS
BY	DRAFTSMAN

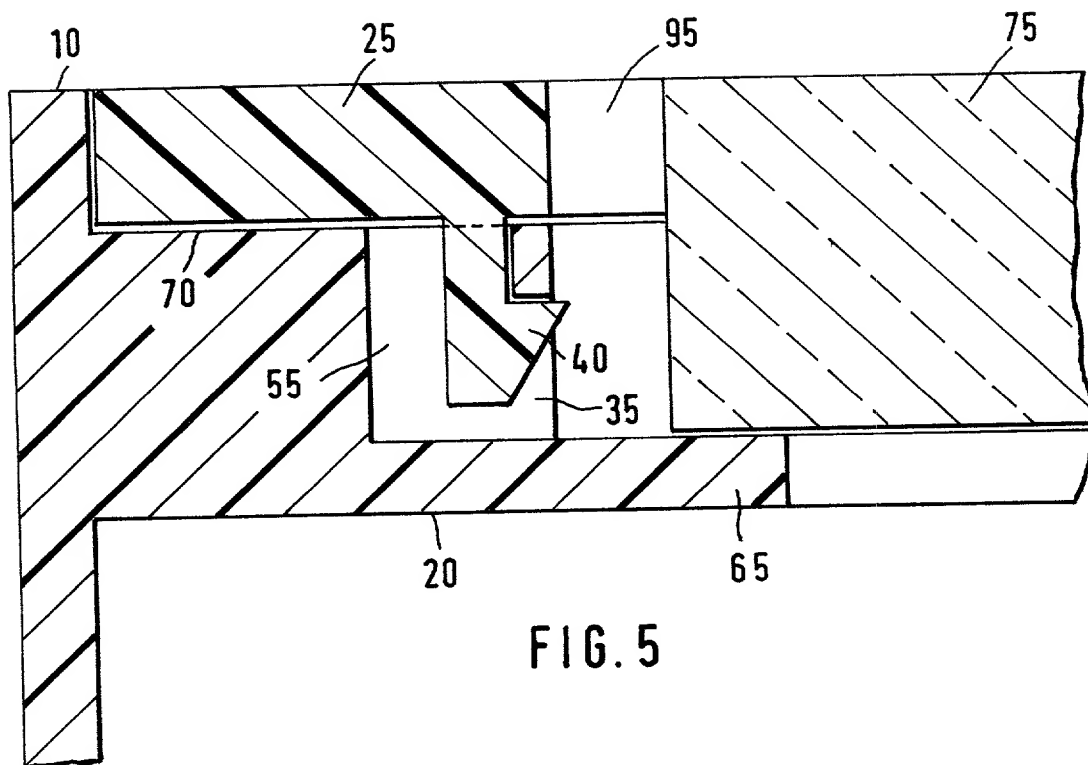


FIG. 5

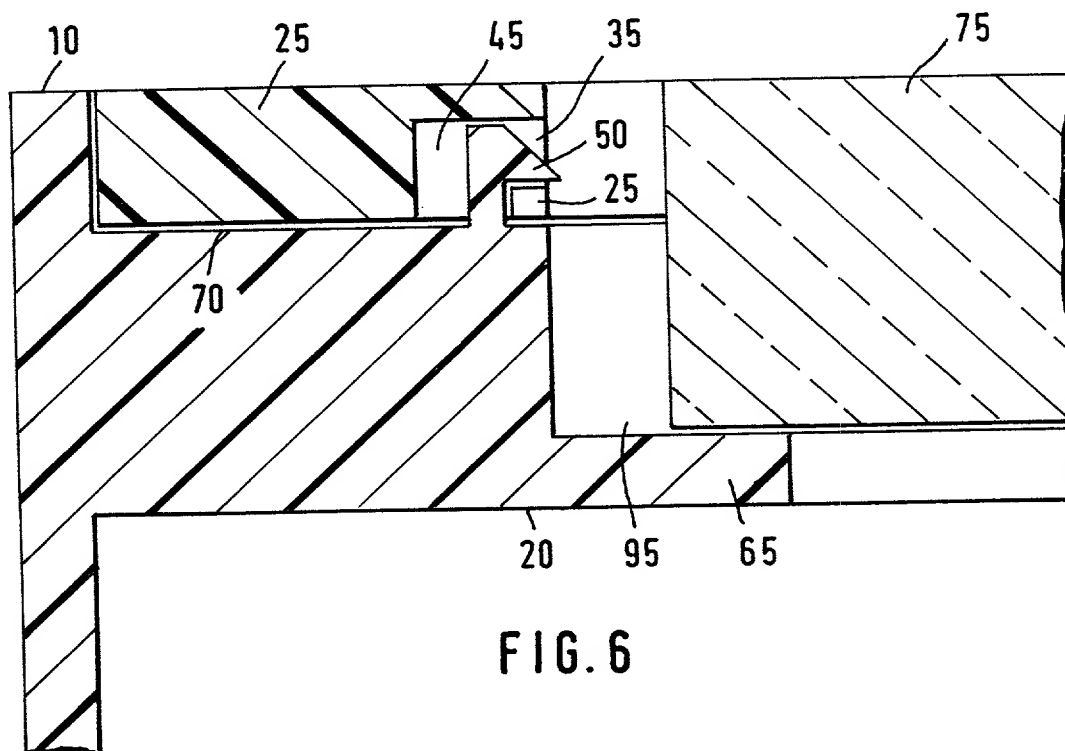


FIG. 6